

# Trees on Maine Street

∞ The Project Canopy Bulletin ∞

Mar-Apr 2014



## Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry: Portland City Arborist to Receive Frank Knight Community Service Award during Arbor Week Celebration

AUGUSTA, Maine – The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry will recognize the importance of trees in urban settings and the dedication of Maine communities to caring for those trees during its 2014 Maine Arbor Week Celebration.

Held on Tuesday, May 20th, at the North Church in Farmington, the celebration, sponsored by the Maine Forest Service (MFS), its urban forestry program, Project Canopy, and GrowSmart Maine, will honor the civic devotion of several notable Maine residents.

This year's recipient of the Frank Knight Excellence in Community Forestry Award, Portland City Arborist Jeff Tarling, will be honored with a unique plaque made from wood from "Herbie", The New England Champion American elm cared for by the late tree warden of Yarmouth, Frank Knight, for whom the award is named. Tarling was named winner of the award for his steadfast commitment to enhancing the city's canopy, by maintaining more than 20,000 street and park trees, planting hundreds more each year, managing over 1,000 acres of forested open space owned by the city, and keeping trees and forests healthy on the city's many islands in Casco Bay.

During the event, participants will learn about state and local efforts to raise awareness of the invasive pest the Emerald Ash Borer and the importance of ash trees to our economy and well-being. Participants will receive conifer seedlings donated by Irving Woodlands LLC, Acadian Timber LLC, and Central Maine Power Co.

In addition, the following municipalities will be recognized for their participation in the Tree City USA program, supporting urban and community forests:

Auburn – 11 years

Augusta – 20 years

Bath – 17 years

Camden – 19 years

Castine – 5 years

Dover-Foxcroft – 2 years

Farmington – 37 years

Hallowell – 12 years

Hampden – 7 years

Kennebunkport – 37 years

Lewiston – 11 years

Orono – 18 years

Portland – 34 years

Saco – 4 years

South Portland – 34 years

Veazie – 1 year

Waterville – 16 years

Westbrook – 37 years

Yarmouth – 35 years



Portland City Arborist Jeff Tarling

The Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes towns and cities across America that meet the standards of the TREE CITY USA program.

Nearly half of the trees in a typical city are on public property-along streets, in parks, and around buildings. The TREE CITY USA program is designed to recognize those communities that effectively manage their public resources, and to encourage the implementation of community tree management based on four TREE CITY USA standards. These four standards provide structure for a community forestry program, require that program to demonstrate success based on the judgment of the state forester's office, and provide for an awareness and appreciation of trees among the residents of the community.

For more information about Project Canopy, go to: <http://www.projectcanopy.me> For more information about the Maine Forest Service, go to: <http://www.maineforestservice.gov>

### PROJECT CANOPY

assists communities and nonprofit, grassroots organizations in building self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs with strong local support.

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## News and Updates

### Be on the Lookout for Ticks Everywhere

Though recent warmer winters have encouraged the spread of ticks statewide - particularly the deer tick that is the carrier of Lyme disease - the long and severe cold of Maine's most recent winter may not do much to dampen their numbers this spring, according to Maine researchers. "The bottom line is this winter isn't going to kill the ticks," Susan Elias, research associate at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute's Vectorborne Disease Laboratory, told the Bangor Daily News.

"They'll be out as soon as it warms up."

A study at a Rhode Island research center at first showed ticks dying under laboratory conditions, but outdoor tests showed ticks easily survived under snow packs, where the temperature falls only to 25-28 degrees F. Ticks become active as soon as mean temperatures reach 40 degrees. Maine now has dog ticks, winter ticks and woodchuck ticks in addition to deer ticks. Identification is available at the [University of Maine Cooperative Extension Lab](http://www.umaine.edu/cooperative-extension-lab/).

Reprinted by permission from Maine Woodlands, the monthly newsletter of the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine ([SWOAM](http://www.swoam.org/)).

[Join](#) SWOAM and receive the Maine Woodlands newsletter.

As always, you can call the [Maine Forest Service](http://www.maine.gov/forest-service/) for more information or assistance at 1 800 367-0223 (in state) or (207) 287-2791, or e-mail [forestinfo@maine.gov](mailto:forestinfo@maine.gov)

*"Of the infinite variety of fruits which spring from the bosom of the earth, the trees of the wood are the greatest in dignity."*

- Susan Fenimore Cooper

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To read the latest Forests for Maine's Future Newsletter

<http://www.forestsforsmainesfuture.org/new-from-the-woods/>

### Across the Green Line: How Forest Service Employees Can Support Local Land Use Planning Efforts

This desk guide is intended primarily for forest supervisors, district rangers, and other employees of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, who need or wish to participate in planning and open space activities in their local community or geographic region. Our goal is to help demystify the planning process and to outline ways that Forest Service employees can, in coordination with line officers, engage effectively and respectfully in locally led land use planning decisions related to housing development. Included in this guide is a brief overview of legal and regulatory authorities associated with participation in community development planning, a review of basic planning steps in which Forest Service employees can (and cannot) provide valuable assistance, and tips on ways to participate successfully. Also included are case studies, selected references and resources, checklists, and a discussion guide.

Key Points covered:

- Forest Service employees possess valuable skills, knowledge and data that can support efforts by communities aimed at planning for future growth and the conservation of natural resources.
- Participation in local land use planning activities, in coordination with line officers, supports the Forest Service mission and goals.
- It is important to learn about the planning processes in your area to best understand how to participate in local growth planning.

Download the report here: <http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/fote/reports/green-line.pdf>





## A History of Maine's District Foresters—Part Two

- Patty Cormier, District Forester

*(This two-part article originally appeared in SWOAM's newsletter. Look back in March for Part One)*

Here are a few excerpts from the "Forest Protectors", a monthly newsletter on divisional activities from those days: "In November 1958, an aerial survey was done to locate White Pine in Washington County. Preliminary conclusions are that Washington County has 50,000 to 60,000 acres of White Pine. How much of this will justify blister rust control is still to be determined. Extremely rough flying, but everyone came through without permanent injury." Forest Protectors, Vol. VII, no. 1, 1959.

*"Service Foresters have been unusually busy with the added work of the planting program. The nursery program rolled into high gear last spring with the planting of approximately 1,900,000 seedlings. While the major burden was on the Service Foresters, cooperation was received from fire wardens and others. It is encouraging to note the continued public increase in selective cutting and other small woodland practices."* Forest Protector, Vol. VII, no. 2, 1959.

*"Bowdoinham- Marked 15 cords, Found squirrel cache of cones in gully, felt sorry for squirrel for we took all but 1/2 bushel. In 40 minutes we picked 6 bushels."* Forest Protector, William Adams, 9/26 1959.

*"Brunswick. Nelson Perryman (MFS). Discussed with him and his daughter and her children the problem of her children removing spots from trees marked for cutting. The children are opposed to all cutting and have been harassing Fraser (the operator). Perryman is willing to trust my judgment; however, the children seem to have a large part in the decision making. Went over the cutting with Mrs. Clark and her children and explained to them that houses, paper and other products taken for granted do not appear out of the clear blue sky."* Forester's Doings- April 14, 1969

*"A new re-forestation technique, viewed by the foresters, is of particular interest to those woodland owners who desire to bring back some of their 'burned out' areas back into woodland production. The group observed variations of a technique known as 'direct seeding' where, instead of using the time honored practice of planting tree seedlings to re-forest the land...the tree is sown directly to the ground. Woodland owners may conclude, at least in part, that if they should have cause to ask a service forester for advice on tree planting, the land owner may expect to receive a package of seeds"* Forest Protectors, Sept. 1968.

*"Ruth Horn (MFD). After getting some candy, a .38 special (with bullets) and some line marking paint, Mrs. Horn's daughter and I went up into the wilderness to work. I showed her the proper way to*

*"Other holidays repose on the past.  
Arbor Day proposes the future."  
- J. Sterling Morton*

*paint a line and finally got to work. I marked seven cords maple boltwood and ten cords of white birch boltwood. I also marked 2.5 cords of softwood pulp and 18 cords of hardwood pulp."* Forest Protectors, Robert Leso Service Forester, August 18, 1971.

*"P.H. Chadbourne (MFS) Millet Lot. Marked eight corners. Finished 26A. Met Phil Leonbud the adjoining landowner. He had noticed one of the flags last night and called the State Police. He thought it was a marker for a dope drop. We explained what it was. He was relieved and said he would call the police to call off the raid if there was one scheduled."* Forest Protectors, Richard Morse, Service Forester, August 12, 1971.

In 1981, the wind of change was blowing through the service forester program. Under then Governor Brennan, 13 forester positions were eliminated along with the service forester program as we knew it as part of a budget reduction exercise. The staffing was at its lowest at this point, leaving 8 foresters statewide to assist landowners. Somewhere between then and 1987, the District Forester program was restored. While having the same focus of landowner assistance, the new program was vastly different. The times they are a changin'; the level of assistance provided had changed as well as the pressures and issues facing landowners. Gone were the marking, planting and harvest supervision roles. The District Foresters today "face a daunting challenge in meeting the many, often conflicting demands of their clients. They serve a wide array of clients with diverse needs- family forest owners, loggers, consulting foresters, investor owners, municipalities, tax assessors, code enforcement, students and the public at large." Mansius, District Forester Report to the legislature, March 10, 2008. While the focus of the job is still very much education, district foresters have been assigned significant regulatory responsibility, mostly due to the enactment of the Forest Practices Act of 1989 and Statewide Standards of 2012. There is no doubt that this regulatory role has diverted their time away from the traditional service role. As of Jan. 2014, staffing is 10 District Foresters (8 positions are actually staffed) and 2 Enforcement Coordinators and are under the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Department, Forest Policy and Management Division. With nearly 18 million acres statewide and over 233,000 family forest owners, District Foresters who directly support the \$10 billion forest industry and the many public benefits that derive from well managed forestlands, have a lot of ground to cover! Speaking from experience, this is one of the most dedicated group of people I have seen. Dedicated to their clients. They all look forward to adding to the rich 70 year history of service.

*"The world's favorite season is the spring.  
All things seem possible in May."*

- Edwin Way Teale

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## Community Wrap-up

### THE BIG TREE SEARCH IS ON!

Mainers love their big trees, and apparently so does the rest of the nation. Since 1940, the search has been on for the biggest trees in the country when Joseph L. Sterns, a forester, became concerned that the world war would decimate forest resources and destroy America's "living landmarks." The National Register of Big Trees now has over 750 measured trees. In 1968 Maine followed suit and started keeping track of big tree nominations. The Maine Forest Service has always been the keeper of the list.

At this point, the current Maine list has 159 winning trees, representing 149 species. Maine currently boasts four national champions on American Forests' 2013 National Register of Big Trees. They are the Bigtooth Aspen in Appleton, a Yellow Birch in Kennebec County, a Black Spruce in Hancock and a Common Juniper in Norridgewock.

The winners are based on taking three measurements: the trunk circumference in inches, the total tree height in feet and 1/4 of the crown spread in feet. Those three measurements are then totaled.

Locally, the game is on, well, soon will be on. The Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District (FCSWCD), the Maine Forest Service, the Farmington Conservation Commission and the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine have joined forces to host a 2014 Franklin County Big Tree Contest. The contest runs from May 14th through September 30th. To nominate a tree in Franklin County, call Rosetta Thompson at the FCSWCD at 778-4279, or go to [www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org) and click on "The Big Tree Contest". There are similar contests going on right now in Oxford, York and Piscataquis counties: Oxford: 743-5789, Piscataquis: 564-2570, York: 324-0888x214 or [www.yorkswcd.org](http://www.yorkswcd.org). If you nominate a tree, a forester will visit you to take the measurements and you will receive the most recent copy of the "Trees

*"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June."*

- L. M. Montgomery

of Maine", a great tree identification book.

If you have a winning tree, you probably won't achieve much fame and fortune because of it, but hopefully you and others will have had some fun in the search. And just a reminder, if you are going on someone else's property, please ask permission first! Game on folks!

The current Maine Big Tree list can be found by going to [www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov), and put "big trees" in for a search. The national list can be viewed at [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org).



#### Calendar

##### **May**

- 14 Invasive Forest Pest Training, Acadia National Park HQ, Bar Harbor. Call Lorraine at 207-832-6241
- 14 Forestry in Maine: State and Local Perspectives. Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, Bath City Hall [www.fomb.org](http://www.fomb.org).
- 17 The Maine Arborist Association's Annual Charity Work Project, Togus VA Center. Please RSVP to MAA Executive Secretary Don Sproul at [MngmtPlus@aol.com](mailto:MngmtPlus@aol.com)
- 20 Maine Forest Service Arbor Day Ceremony, North Church, Farmington
- 20 Introduction to wild food foraging, Wells Reserve
- 21 Consulting Forestry May Meeting at Stonefence Farm, Salisbury, NH
- 31 Tree Climbing Championship, Burlington, VT

##### **June**

- 5 Upland Invasive Plant Species Identification and Control Workshop, South Berwick Recreation Department [ken.canfield@maine.gov](mailto:ken.canfield@maine.gov) or call (207) 441-3712
- 23 The Benefits of Trees, The Lincoln Home, Newcastle

*"Never yet was a springtime, when the buds forgot to bloom."*

- Margaret Elizabeth Sangster

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

*Maine Forest Service*

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